

candidates in which he believed. The Denton County Republican Party recalls that “He was there for everything Republican. Every phone bank, every meeting, and countless campaigns, if there was a need, there was Tim to fill it. He was the first to come and the last to leave.” For these reasons, they named him Volunteer of the Year 1998. He was even known to the former majority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, Dick Armey of Texas, who has said that “Tim Hoy was the constant guy for me. Whenever I came back to town, I would count on Tim to bring me up to speed on things here in Denton County.” His work for individuals seeking an elected public service role included serving as campaign manager for County Commissioner Ron Marchant during his first run for the city council of Carrollton, Texas. Senator TED CRUZ was a favorite official of Hoy, who loyally campaigned for him in Iowa during the 2016 presidential primary election.

During all of this tireless service and exceptional labor, Hoy continued to perform his daily job. He embodied his love for service to the public as he worked as a mail clerk for the Denton County Sheriffs Office for 23 years.

A man who worked for his strong conservative ideals, with a spirit of public service and true friendliness to all in the community, Hoy will be missed and remembered in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring Timothy Hoy.

TRIBUTE TO BILL CARNAHAN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to southern California are exceptional. Mr. Bill Carnahan, who, for more than 16 years, has served with distinction as Executive Director of the Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) will be retiring after 50 years of dedicated service to public utility.

Since he became Executive Director in 2000, Mr. Carnahan has succeeded in making SCPPA one of the largest and most active joint action agencies in the country, with a diverse energy resource portfolio. SCPPA represents 11 community-owned utilities and one irrigation district that provide electricity to 4.8 million people, over 7,000 square miles in Southern California. Mr. Carnahan has worked with Members of Congress throughout the West, from both sides of the aisle, to advance the interests of community-owned utilities. He is well known for his vision, his ability to bring stakeholders together, and his forthrightness. Bill has played a pivotal role in advocating on behalf of non-profit, publicly-accountable utilities that serve consumers in small and large communities alike.

Under Mr. Carnahan's leadership, SCPPA has grown immensely—evolving from six generation and transmission projects in its early days, to 32 generation and three transmission projects bringing power from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Washington, Oregon, California and Nevada to Southern California today. Mr. Carnahan helped enact legislation to extend

federal contracts which will ensure that Southern California consumers continue to enjoy emissions-free hydropower from Hoover Dam for another 50 years. Hoover power is a low-cost, reliable energy resource, and is critical to helping keep Southern California's energy costs as low as possible. The bill, the “Hoover Power Allocation Act,” was signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 10, 2011.

My personal and professional respect and admiration for Mr. Carnahan runs deep, and I wish him happiness and good health in his retirement. The wise counsel, determination, and good Scotch-Irish sense-of-humor, which he has provided to me and others in Congress for many years on behalf of public power—will be fondly remembered.

TRIBUTE TO CURRENT AND FORMER STAFF MEMBERS

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special group of people from Florida's 13th Congressional District. I rise to recognize the current and former staff members of our congressional office, both at home in Pinellas County and here in the halls of Congress. And importantly, I do so not just on my behalf, but truly on behalf of a most grateful community that for nearly three years has been blessed to have a team of dedicated and selfless individuals serving Pinellas County residents by giving voice to the interests and concerns of everyone, regardless of political party; fighting for those in need of assistance at their most challenging times; and working ceaselessly to improve the lives of every individual they encountered.

Mr. Speaker, each one of us who have the privilege to serve in this body, the People's House, understand the honor that has been bestowed upon us by our community. But to fulfill our responsibilities, both constitutional and sacred, we are only as good as the team around us. Mr. Speaker, I have been blessed to work with a remarkable team of individuals, and I stand here today proud of each one of them and grateful for their willingness to serve our community and our country.

It's a unique role to serve on a congressional staff. You have to bring a servant's heart, a commitment to your community, and a willingness to listen to the criticisms brought on not by your own actions, but by the actions of the institution for which you work—the actions that you and I as colleagues take in making decisions of policy and of politics. And in doing so, the staff members of this body serve their nation just as faithfully and honorably as you and I attempt to do so each day. It is their work, as much as ours, that leads our nation forward, and leads our communities and our neighbors through some of our most challenging times.

It is for this reason that I recognize with a grateful heart, and on behalf of a grateful community, the work of the following individuals who have served Florida's 13th Congressional District during my time in office:

Mr. John David White, Chief of Staff; Mr. Preston Rudie, Communications Director; Ms.

Nicole Smith, Constituent Services; Ms. Stephani Lavelly, Constituent Services; Ms. Brenda Frantz, Constituent Services; Ms. Sandy Hutton, Constituent Services; Mr. Nick Golden, Constituent Services; Mr. Paul Matthews, Constituent Services & Legislative Staff; Ms. Katie Heffernan, Constituent Services; Ms. Rochelle Colburn, Constituent Services; Ms. Sharon Ghezzi, Constituent Services; Ms. Natalee Campagnola, Constituent Services; Mr. Adam Boggs, Constituent Services; Ms. Jennifer Nawrocki, Legislative Director; Mr. Ian Manzano, Senior Policy Advisor; Mr. Tim Medeiros, Legislative Staff; Mr. Reggie Paros, Legislative Staff; Mr. Doug DeWyssocki, Jr., Legislative Staff; Mr. Joshua Perez, Legislative Staff; Mr. Nicholas Catroppo, Deputy Chief of Staff; Ms. Alex Goodman, Legislative Staff; Mr. L.J. Govoni, Legislative Staff; Ms. Brittany Roberts, Legislative Staff; Mr. Joshua Nawrocki, Legislative Staff; and Ms. Blake Churchman, Legislative Staff.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask that the House join me in recognizing the service of each of these individuals. This body has been well served, and indeed is better today, because of the service of these men and women; and the people of Pinellas County, Florida can be proud of their faithful work over these last three years. I consider each to be a friend, and I thank them today for joining me on this remarkable journey of representing Florida's 13th Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent December 2nd due to a medical appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll Call Vote 600, agreeing to the conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

This year's NDAA passed by the House of Representatives continues to contain spending for wars that were never authorized by Congress, mandates restrictions on closing the prison at Guantanamo Bay, and supplements Pentagon spending with \$67.8 billion in Overseas Contingency Operation funds. For these reasons, I oppose the Fiscal Year 2017 NDAA.

However, the NDAA did include a lot of meritorious provisions that I support including a 2.1 percent pay increase for our military men and women. Those who serve in uniform have already made extraordinary sacrifices for our country, and have earned and deserve a pay raise. I also strongly support the provisions that address the growing problem of sexual assault in the military by updating the Uniform Code of Military Justice and providing public access to court documents and proceedings.

Additionally, I support the addition of language to direct the DOD to complete a review of all California Guard members who were impacted by the California National Guard Bonus Recoupment scandal and alleviate financial hardship for California Guardsmen who were erroneously paid bonuses. I am appalled that the Pentagon punished service members for

mismanagement by National Guard officials, and previously signed a letter to the Secretary of Defense demanding that the DOD halt recruitment efforts.

Despite progress on these issues, I have serious concerns with the bill. I have always advocated for maintaining Congress's constitutionally-confirmed prerogative to declare war under the War Powers Act and limiting the President's authority to engage in armed conflict without the consent of Congress. I strongly oppose the NDAA's authorization of spending for wars that are not congressionally approved. The President has sent troops to Iraq, Syria and elsewhere without seeking an Authorization of Use of Military Force (AUMF), a violation of the War Powers Act.

Additionally, the NDAA continues to bar the use of funds from transferring detainees from the Guantanamo Bay prison and prevents the President's plan to permanently close this facility. The prison at Guantanamo Bay has been a black eye for the United States, has eroded relationships with our allies, undermined U.S. missions, and put our troops at risk of retaliation.

Most importantly, this bill fails to rein in the only federal agency that is not fully auditable and continues to authorize wasteful spending without implementing proper oversight of the Pentagon's budget. I am outraged by a recent report revealing \$125 billion dollars in largely administrative, bureaucratic spending at the Pentagon was covered up. I have fought for fiscal responsibility and accountability at the Pentagon so that scarce funds can better be spent on the basic needs of our troops, obligations to veterans of past wars and other domestic priorities throughout my time in Congress.

Although this year's NDAA contained significant bipartisan compromises it also failed to address some of my longtime concerns.

RECOGNIZING NATALIE RAMOS AS AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Natalie Ramos for her tireless work as Constituent Advocate for Florida's Ninth Congressional District in Central Florida.

Beginning as an intern in 2015, Natalie showed great promise from the start. She excelled and went on to become a Constituent Advocate where she played a vital role as part of the casework team. With her help, the office was able to assist members of the community, namely immigrants, veterans, and those seeking urgent assistance. She has a bright future ahead of her as a public servant.

I am honored to recognize Natalie Ramos for her service to my office and the constituents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH K. AWADJIE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. Joseph K. Awadje for his years of compassionate advocacy and tireless work to improve the lives of our students.

Born and raised in Ghana, Mr. Awadje is fluent in the languages of Twi, Fanti and Ga. Emigrating from Ghana, Mr. Awadje was drawn to CUNY because of its rich diversity and broad service to New Yorkers of all backgrounds. Mr. Awadje is dedicated to ensuring that students have an active role in university governance, and is committed to improving the quality of public higher education through advocacy efforts at the university, city, and state levels.

Mr. Awadje earned his Master of Science Degree at Brooklyn College, specializing in Natural and Behavioral Sciences, in June of 2016. Prior to his graduate studies, Mr. Awadje earned his B.S in Exercise Science from Brooklyn College. In 2014, Mr. Awadje was elected the thirtieth Chairperson of the University Student Senate (USS) and just completed his second term as the USS Chairperson and CUNY Trustee.

Mr. Awadje has a long record of service at CUNY. While at Brooklyn College, he has served as Senator of Student Government, President of the Forensics Debate team and the Academic Club Association, and Captain of the men's soccer team. Shortly upon returning to Brooklyn College for his Master's degree, Mr. Awadje was elected President of the Graduate Student Organization.

During his tenure at USS, Mr. Awadje was an integral part of the grassroots campaign that restored a Merit Based Scholarship within the New York City Council Budget. With strong support from the City Council Committee on Higher Education, Mr. Awadje helped secure \$11.1 million in the FY2015 Budget and \$17 million in the FY2016 budget for a Merit Based Scholarship for CUNY students. In 2016, Mr. Awadje led a successful student campaign to halt tuition increases at CUNY, while helping acquire increased funding for essential university programming.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Joseph K. Awadje for his consistently remarkable dedication to education and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT OF THE CADILLAC AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BILL TENCZA

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bill Tencza, upon his retirement as the President of the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce.

Bill became the President of the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce in 2000. Over

the years Mr. Tencza has been a champion in furthering industry and education in Cadillac. He has played a vital role in the formation of the Business Expo and the LEAD meetings, along with fostering relationships between those in business and education.

Mr. Tencza remains very active in the community and has served as a judge for the Congressional App Challenge from our district. He also works with the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance, Cadillac Industrial Fund and the Cadillac Area Industrial Group.

After 16 years as the President of the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce, Bill has left a legacy of hard work and dedication to the community of Cadillac.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to extend my gratitude to Bill Tencza for his many years of hard work and service in the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce, and wish him a happy and healthful retirement.

RECOGNIZING 50 YEARS OF THE BI-STATE REGIONAL COMMISSION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Bi-State Regional Commission on 50 years of collaboration to promote important changes to transportation, communication, technology, and the environment in the Quad-Cities area.

Through intergovernmental and regional cooperation, this commission has brought local governments from Illinois and Iowa together to address important economic issues and collaborate on projects for the benefit of the region. Some notable projects include developing our interstate system, the expansion of the 1-74 bridge and improvements to passenger rail service and transit systems in the region. I applaud the efforts of this commission for their commitment to excellence in the Quad Cities.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate the Bi-State Regional Commission for this remarkable achievement and I thank them for their 50 years of service to our community.

IN TRIBUTE TO NANCY O'KEEFE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy O'Keefe who is retiring from the Historic Third Ward Association, HTWA, on January 3, 2017. The HTWA was organized 41 years ago and Nancy has served the organization for 21 of those years. She began since 1996 and for 20 of those 21 years of service has been the Executive Director of the HTWA. During her tenure as Executive Director, the agency has grown tremendously; she has gone from supervising 2 employees to over 50.

In the 20 years since Nancy O'Keefe took charge as executive director, she has helped HTWA act as a catalyst to develop the district